

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BELIZE 00722 191847Z

44

ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 SS-15

PM-04 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 COME-00

OPR-02 OC-06 CCO-00 INT-05 NSF-01 CG-00 DOTE-00

DODE-00 EUR-12 /071 W
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O 191800Z AUG 76

FM AMCONSUL BELIZE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5175

INFO CBF BELIZE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELIZE 0722

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TGEN XL NOAA

SUBJECT: TIDAL WAVE WARNING

REF: A) STATE 205352

B) WALSH/SCHUMACHER, S/S-O, TELCON, AUGUST 18, 1976

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: 1. CONGEN STRONGLY RECOMMENDS ALL
FUTURE MESSAGES THIS SUBJECT ALSO BE TRANSMITTED TO COMMANDER,
BRITISH FORCES, BELIZE (ROUTING INDICATOR: RBDAD/CBF BELIZE)
WITH SAME PRECEDENCE AS OTHER ADDRESSEES. BRITISH INQUIRED
OF US ABOUT TIDAL WAVE STORIES AND WE PASSED THEM INFO CON-
TAINED REFTEL.

2. BRITISH SHARE OUR CONCERN OVER PECULIAR VULNERABILITY OF
BELIZE CITY TO EVEN MILD TIDAL SURGES AND LACK OF SUITABLE
NEARBY SAFEHAVEN AND EVACUATION ROUTES. MEAN ELEVATION OF
CITY IS ONLY 2.5 RPT 2.5 FEET ABOVE SEA LEVEL. ELEVATION
DOES NOT INCREASE APPRECIABLY FOR SOME 20 MILES INLAND.
MOREOVER, CITY IS LOCATED ON PARTIALLY RECLAIMED LAND JUTTING
SHARPLY INTO CARIBBEAN WITH ONLY 2 NARROW ROADS LEADING FROM
TOWN, ONE OF WHICH IS OFTEN INUNDATED BY TIDES RAISED BY
STORM PASSING CONSIDERABLE DISTANCE AWAY.

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3. IN ADDITION, CONGEN IS UNREACHABLE BY NORMAL TELE-
GRAPHIC CHANNELS BETWEEN 2330 AND 0930 EASTERN DAYLIGHT
TIME, AS COMMERCIAL FACILITY ON WHICH CONGEN DEPENDENT
SHUTS DOWN FOR NIGHT. BRITISH, HOWEVER, STAND BY ON 24
HOUR BASIS AND CAN COMMUNICATE WITH CONGEN PERSONNEL BY
LOCAL TELEPHONE AND/OR FM RADIO NET.

4. IF DEPARTMENT CONCURS IN TRANSMISSION OF TSUNAMI
MESSAGES TO CBF BELIZE, SUGGEST MESSAGES ALSO BE REPEATED
INFO TO RBDTQB/METOFF BRACKNELL WITH SAME PRECEDENCE. END
UNCLASSIFIED.

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL: 5. GOB HAS NOT APPROACHED CONGEN ON
THIS MATTER AND WE DO NOT RPT NOT PROPOSE VOLUNTEER INFOR-
MATION UNLESS CIRCUMSTANCES WARRANT OR DEPARTMENT SO IN-
STRUCTS. COMMANDER, BRITISH FORCES, AGREES WITH CONGEN
ASSESSMENT THAT PREMATURE OR UNNECESSARY DISCLOSURE COULD
EASILY RESULT IN UNPLEASANT CONSEQUENCES DUE HYPERTHYROID
NATURE OF BELIZE RUMOR MILL. END CONFIDENTIAL.
WALSH

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 19 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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04 MAY 2006

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TAGS: TGEN, SWEL, XL, BH, NOAA
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